

Public Accommodation: Store requires two forms of identification for African-Americans who make purchases by check, while requiring only one form of identification for non-African-Americans.

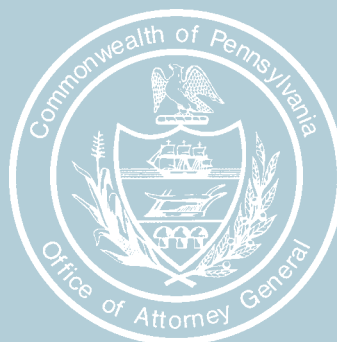
Commercial airline has policy of performing background checks on Arab-Americans, but does not do so for non-Arab-Americans.

Disability: A disabled individual who uses a wheelchair, attempts to eat at a restaurant but is unable to enter because there is no wheelchair ramp.

Housing: A landlord who rented an apartment to a Jewish family was threatened and harassed by neighbors who were furious that the landlord had rented the apartment to a Jewish family. The neighbors further threatened that if the family was not removed, serious harm would follow.

Familial Status: A family with children who attempts to rent an apartment is told by the landlord, "No children allowed."

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU
HAVE BEEN
DISCRIMINATED
AGAINST, YOU MAY
OBTAIN A COMPLAINT
FORM BY CALLING THE
CIVIL RIGHTS
ENFORCEMENT SECTION
OR BY VISITING THE
WEB-SITE.



Pennsylvania
Office of Attorney General
Civil Rights Enforcement Section

14th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17012
(717) 787-0822

civilrights@attorneygeneral.gov

www.attorneygeneral.gov

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT SECTION



Jerry Pappert
Attorney General



Dear Pennsylvanian:

One of the goals of my office is to ensure that, as required by law, all Pennsylvanians are treated without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, religion,

holding a General Education Development Certificate (G.E.D.), being disabled, being related to someone who is disabled or having children under the age of 18. The Civil Rights Enforcement Section (CRES) was created to enforce laws that protect against such unlawful discriminatory treatment.

If you believe you have been discriminated against based upon one of the above reasons, the CRES may be able to help correct the situation, or may be able to direct you to the appropriate agency to help you.

Gerald J. Pappert
Attorney General

CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The CRES assumes a leadership and coordination role in legal actions arising from complaints of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, G.E.D. or familial status, in employment, housing, and public accommodations, which following investigation, are determined to constitute unlawful discrimination.

The CRES works closely with other governmental and law enforcement agencies, including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, federal civil rights agencies and the InterAgency Task Force on Civil Tension in training law enforcement and municipal agencies on State civil rights and ethnic intimidation laws.

The CRES works closely with school districts to address tension situations affecting our young people. Possible issues include: inter-group tensions, and diverse student populations.

Examples of the kinds of situations in which the CRES may be able to help:

Employment: Employer ignores female employees' complaints of sexual harassment.

Employer discharges White employees for chronic lateness while failing to discharge non-white employees who are chronically late.

Stating that it wishes to "introduce modern teaching methods", employer school district denies position to 52 year old certified teacher and hires non-certified 25 year old teacher.

Helpful Definitions

Discrimination: The unlawful denial of equal treatment by individuals and/or institutions in many arenas, including employment, public accommodations, education, housing, financial institutions.

Stereotype: An oversimplified generalization about a person or group of people without regard for individual differences.

Prejudice: Pre-judging; making decisions about a person or group without sufficient knowledge; frequently based on stereotypes.

Hate Crime: A criminal act against a person or property motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity. The legal term for a hate crime against a person is "ethnic intimidation." The legal term for a hate crime involving certain property is "institutional vandalism."